GEOGRAPHIC WEB BROWSER AND ICONIC HYPERLINK CARTOGRAPHY
Abstract

The present invention relates to a system and method for searching,

5   accessing, retrieving, representing and browsing geographic or location related
information from the Web (i.e.: HTML documents that describe physical places).
More particularly, the present invention relates to a system and method for
automatically searching, retrieving, representing and browsing from the Web a
geographic distribution of places where selectable types of resources are located or

10   certain types of services provided (hospitals, bus terminals, historical places,
oil-posts, restaurants, hotels, etc ....) These places are located inside regions of
different sizes around any reference point of the world. The invention enables a user
to select any one of the automatically mapped locations and to browse the
information retrieved from the World Wide Web for this location, without any resort to

15   services of specialized geographic information systems or geographic information
providers.

The system according to the present invention comprises means for tagging
each document accessible through the Web with the cartographic coordinates
(longitude, latitude and optionally altitude) of the physical location referenced in the

20   document and, optionally, with one or a plurality of attributes of this physical
location. The invention also comprises a method for searching and retrieving from
the Web the tagged documents from a computer system by means of queries
specifying:

- the cartographic coordinates (longitude and latitude) of a reference location

25   anywhere in the world,
- the size of the geographic area to search around this reference location, and/or
- one or several attributes of the locations to search (location type key words)
inside that geographic area.

Figure 5

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